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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3504

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GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
OVERSIGHT OF GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT
RESTRUCTURING AND THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
CLEAN AIR, WETLANDS, PRIVATE PROPERTY
AND NUCLEAR SAFETY

ETHICS

Dear Fellow Ohioan,

None of us will ever forget 2001. After a roller coaster presidential election decided by the narrowest of margins and capped by an historic legal drama, our country was subjected to another up and down ride, this time of the economic sort as hundreds of thousands of American families suffered more plunges than climbs with uncertainty about their jobs and businesses. The federal government's own fiscal outlook went from one of surplus to deficit, almost overnight. And no one was untouched by the horror of the September 11th attacks. On top of the pain of losing thousands of our fellow Americans came the sobering realization that America's open society could be savagely used against us.

As we have mourned the loss of thousands of innocent lives, our armed forces have fought overseas to rid the world of terrorism and defend the freedoms for which America stands. Here at home, we fight our own war against terrorism by upgrading our airport security and dealing with the cowardly anthrax attacks that have killed five, threatened our postal workers, and shut down for three months the building housing my Washington office.

Though it was a year filled with pain, 2001 has made America stronger. Out of adversity our country has rediscovered its patriotism. Americans drew together with a renewed understanding that our common future is rooted in the preservation and cultivation of our common values of liberty and justice for all.

Over the past year, I have seen my own role in the Senate evolve. In fact, on the day before the attack, I was working with the White House on the final touches of a proposal to, at last, set aside the Social Security surplus for debt reduction and Social Security reform in order to keep the surplus from being wasted on superfluous, "pork-barrel" spending. In an instant, my priorities, and the priorities of our nation, shifted from saving for our future to fighting for our future and we have rightly spent the necessary huge sums to protect our homeland, rebuild, and combat terrorism. But our need for fiscal prudence lives on, now more than ever, to make sure that our critical national security and homeland defense needs are properly prioritized.

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As we forced ourselves to return to as normal a life as possible, the work of the Senate went on and I pushed forward on other legislative fronts. As a member of the Senate Energy Task Force I pushed for an energy policy that continues our strong environmental protections while also keeping prices low and ensuring a stable energy supply. In addition, I worked with five other Republicans and Democrats in the Centrist Coalition to gain the President's support for an economic stimulus plan to help get us out of the recession and help those who are unemployed. Other issues on which I made progress include early childhood education, economic development in Appalachia and small business paperwork relief. This report provides details of my work on these issues and others important to Ohioans over the past year.

As I have done throughout my career in public service, my work in the Senate is focused on improving the lives of all Ohioans. I do so not only by addressing specific opportunities in the Buckeye State, but also by addressing the "big picture" issues that affect the lives of every Ohioan as well as every American in a long-term way.

In 2002, during the second session of the 107th Congress, the Senate will face many such issues: the economy, energy policy, health care, and additional homeland defense issues such as terrorism reinsurance, to name a few. Each of these issues has a direct impact on Ohioans and I look forward to ensuring that each meets the needs of our state and our nation in a responsible manner.

We are responsible not only for what we do today but also for how those actions affect our children and grandchildren tomorrow. I continue to be thankful for the privilege of working in partnership with you to help shape that tomorrow.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "George V. Voinovich". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "George" and last name "Voinovich" clearly legible.

George V. Voinovich
United States Senator